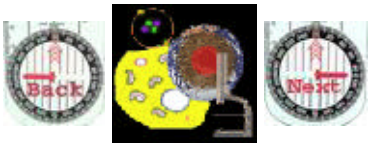
While it is interesting to see how to identify or classify minerals, perhaps it is more important to find out why a mineral is useful to man. This table shows the uses of some common minerals. Place your mouse over each image link to view it in a separate window. Close the window to return to this page and continue.

Bauxite	Aluminum, foil, airplane parts
Borax	Antiseptic soaps, welding flux or cleaner (found in dry lake beds)
Calcite	Medicine, toothpaste, bldng. materials (hard water deposit, ancient sea beds)
Copper	Tubing, electrical wires, sculptures
Diamond	Cutting tools/ blades/ saws
Feldspar	Ceramics and porcelain, colors in granites (not black)
Galena	Source of lead
Graphite	Pencils, lubricant in machinery
Gypsum	Wall board, Plaster of Paris
Halite	Salt
Hematite	Source of iron
Jade	Jewelry, figurines
Limonite /Taconite	Source of iron (around Cedar City)
Muscovite (Mica)	White, gray material in electrical insulators
Quartz (massive type) Quartz crystal	Glass manufacturing, radios, computers and electronic equipment
Silver	Jewelry, photography, electrical equip.
Sulfur	Fungicides, kills bacteria, vulcanizes rubber, in coal and fuels, fertilizer
Talc	Baby powder, soapstone, gymnastics to grasp bars



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